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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/732,800	12/11/2003	Matthias Eisengruber	51481-5126	5876

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Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

DOUGHERTY, THOMAS M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/732,800

Applicant(s)

EISENGRUBER ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas M. Dougherty

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 804.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi (US 5,039,899). Yamaguchi shows (fig. 5) a system of providing movement along an axis, the system comprising: a beam including a body (16) extending generally parallel to the axis between first and second ends, the beam including a plurality of arms (33) extending from the body (16) to respective tips spaced from the body (16); a piezo-electric actuator (12, 13) coupled to the beam (16), the piezoelectric actuator (12, 13) vibrating the beam (16) so as to induce in the beam (16) a wave between the first and second ends; and a plate (34) being biased toward the body (16) of the beam and engaging contiguously the respective tips of the plurality of arms (33).

The plurality of arms comprises first and second sets of arms (see 21a, 21b in fig. 4), the first set of arms includes a respective first set of tips and the second set of arms includes a respective second set of tips; and wherein the first and second sets of tips alternately contiguously engage the plate (16 in fig. 4) to move the plate (16) along the axis.

Each of the plurality of arms (33) extends a length between the body (16) and the respective tip, the length and a magnitude of the wave amplifying (see fig. 3B) a displacement of the piezo-electric actuator (12, 13).

Each of the respective tips moves in a sweeping action in response to the piezo-electric actuator (12, 13) vibrating the beam.

The beam has a harmonic frequency and the piezoelectric actuator vibrates the beam (16) at the harmonic frequency. This is evident from fig. 3B.

The device includes a biasing element (35) pressing the plate (34) against the beam (16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yamaguchi (US 5,039,899). Given the invention of Yamaguchi as noted above, it is not known what frequencies he employs to move the plate in either direction.

Whether or not Yamaguchi's piezoelectric actuator vibrates the beam at first and second frequencies, with the first frequency moving the plate in a first direction along the axis and the second frequency moving the plate in a second direction along the axis, the second direction being opposite to the first direction. Note however that this is

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not further limiting to the structure of the invention but is instead a method of operating the device. As such it does not carry patentable weight. Note also that as Yamaguchi shows the claimed structural features of the invention, it is within the aegis of his device to be so operated.


Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining prior art cited reads on some aspects of the claimed invention.

Direct inquiry to Examiner Dougherty at (571) 272-2022.


tmd

January 3, 2006


TOM DOUGHERTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER